

of his years in public service and contribution to the community. I wish him continued success.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ETHAL JORDAN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ethal Jordan, a dedicated weather observer from Hamilton, Colorado. Ethal was recently honored with the 2004 John Campanius Holm Award for outstanding service in the Cooperative Weather Observer Program by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Her observations have helped our government accurately describe the climate of our country, and I am honored to stand here today with my colleagues before this body of Congress and this nation and recognize her accomplishments.

The National Weather Service Cooperative Weather Observer Program has provided scientists and researchers continuous data on temperature, precipitation, and other weather factors such as river levels and soil temperature. Once a month observers mail their records to the National Climatic Data Center. These weather records retain importance over time as they provide an accurate picture of a locale's normal weather and give scientists a basis to predict future trends. Through these predictions scientists are able to enhance economic security and provide for the national safety of Americans.

Ethal has served for over 47 years as a cooperative observer. The award that she received this year is one of the agency's most prestigious awards and she is one of only twenty-six that received the honor this year. She established the Hamilton station in 1957, where she began reporting daily precipitation data to the National Weather Service. With her hard work these records have helped establish climatology parameters for northwest Colorado and the central Yampa River Basin.

Mr. Speaker, Ethal Jordan is a devoted weather observer whose data have been an important source of information for scientists to make accurate weather forecasts and predictions in the United States. She has provided a great service to her country for over 47 years, and I am honored to recognize her efforts before this body of Congress. Congratulations on your award, Ethal, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING JANESVILLE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Janesville Performing Arts Center on its grand opening and spotlight this exciting new addition to Janesville, Wisconsin.

Today the Janesville Performing Arts Center opens its doors—and opens a new chapter of

the life of historic Janesville High School on Main Street. The center will give our area's performers a wonderful new stage for their creative energies and serve as a resource for people of all ages throughout our community. Besides providing a terrific venue for local arts groups to showcase their talent and skill, the Janesville Performing Arts Center will bring new opportunities for entertainment to everyone in our region.

The grand opening of Janesville's first community performing arts center is a cause for celebration throughout our area and especially for those who have worked so hard to make this center a reality.

RECOGNIZING THE CHARACTER COUNTS YOUTH FLAG RALLY IN LISLE, ILLINOIS

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a group of young constituents in my district whose efforts to recognize September 11 brought a local community together in collective pride for the United States.

Three years ago, when our Nation was overcome by fear and dismay, Katie and Carrie Straub came together with other young people to make a difference during the aftermath of our Nation's greatest tragedy. They planned a local flag rally to bring youths together to share in their grief and honor America's heroes.

The first rally was an impromptu response to the profound sadness and patriotism expressed in the days after September 11, and it caught the eyes and ears of a community and its local leaders. Now, with the help of many other youths in the community and local businesses, the annual rally has grown to incorporate charity fundraising events and has become an uplifting day, focused on staying positive and helping others in the wake of tragedy.

The girls sought out and received official approval for the annual rally, and this year, September 11, 2004, has been declared Character Counts Youth Flag Rally Day in the village of Lisle, Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, I am so proud of these young constituents. They heard the call of the President to stand up in support of our nation in the days after September 11, and their dedication and spirited efforts have proven once again that teens can make a difference.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SCOTT TIPTON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Scott Tipton, a dedicated businessman and friend from Cortez, Colorado. Scott is a prominent member of the Cortez business community, selling pottery for over a quarter of a century from his establishment, Mesa Verde Pottery. He is a tremendous serv-

ant of the community, and I am honored to stand with my colleagues today before this body of Congress and this nation to recognize his accomplishments.

Scott passed up an opportunity for a successful law career to open a seven hundred square foot pottery shop on East Main Street in 1979. Twenty-five years later that business is thriving in a building twenty times its original size. The pottery is sold in all fifty states and six foreign countries. The heaviest concentration of his business is concentrated in the Rocky Mountain region and the Southwest, but also stretches to specialty stores and gift shops throughout the nation.

Mesa Verde Pottery employs eight salespeople and fourteen full-time American Indian artists and production workers. These artists paint designs on geometrically carved white and red-earth objects evolving Navajo monument and silhouetted mountains into intricate patterns. Scott takes pride in the unparalleled craftsmanship and employee spirit that results in better products. Scott has also taken many opportunities to give back to the community, donating twelve thousand dollars worth of goods, services, and financial contributions to local non-profits and charities in addition to pottery awards for the Indian Summer Run contestants.

Mr. Speaker, Scott Tipton is an outstanding member of the Cortez community. He has followed his dream and inspired his fellow Coloradans to do the same. The pottery created at Mesa Verde Pottery celebrates an important part of America's history, and I am honored to stand here before this body and this nation and recognize his service to his community and the nation. Congratulations on your twenty-five years of successful business, Scott, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

HONORING METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGES, DEDICATION OF THE BLUE RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE CAMPUS CENTER BUILDING

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a new addition to Metropolitan Community Colleges. On Friday September 10, 2004, the Metropolitan Community Colleges will officially open the Campus Center Building at Blue River Community College. The new two story Campus Center Building is adjacent to the Education Center and the Western Missouri Public Safety Training Institute. The addition houses a lecture hall, student activities offices, food services along with the Academic Resource Center that includes library and tutoring facilities. The second floor features hi tech classrooms, laboratories and faculty offices.

Since 1969, the Kansas City Metropolitan Community Colleges have been governed by an elected Board of Trustees. The six member Board serves for six years with jurisdiction over four community colleges and the Business and Technology Center encompassing the county of Jackson and parts of Cass, Clay